

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Final Office Action mailed on February 23, 2005, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 8, 21, 27, 29, 32, and 42 are amended, claims 19, 26, 28, 30, and 31 are canceled, claims 1-18, 20, and 33-41 are allowed, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-18, 20-25, 27, 29, and 32-42 are now pending in this application.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 29 was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for having insufficient antecedent basis with regard to "the fixer and overcoat." Applicant has made the appropriate corrections to claim 29. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112 rejection of claim 29.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 21-27, 29, 32, and 42 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,102,537) in view of Kato, et al. (U.S. 6,439,708).

In order to expedite the prosecution of the present patent application, Applicant has amended independent claims 21 and 29 to include subject matter that the Examiner has indicated as allowable. Specifically, Applicant has cancelled dependent claims 26 and 28 and included the subject matter of those allowable claims in independent claim 21. Additionally, Applicant has cancelled claims 30 and 31 and included the subject matter of those claims in independent claim 29.

Applicant has amended independent claims 32 and 42 to include subject matter that the Applicant believes is patentable based upon independent claims 1 and 37.

Specifically, independent claim 32 recites:

An article comprising:
a full-height ink printhead;
a half-height fixer printhead;
a half-height overcoat printhead;

computer memory; and
instructions encoded in the memory to cause the processor to send
swath data to the full-height ink, half-height fixer and half-height
overcoat printheads.

In addition, Applicant's independent claim 42 recites:

A printing apparatus, comprising:
a full-height ink printhead;
a half-height fixer printhead;
a half-height overcoat printhead; and
a program storage element for a processor, comprising:
computer memory; and
instructions encoded in the memory to cause the processor to
control ink ejection elements to deposit drops of a colored ink from
the full-height ink printhead on a medium, and deposit drops of a
fixer and an overcoat from the half-height fixer printhead and the
half-height overcoat printhead onto the deposited drops of the
colored ink.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 21, 29, 32, and 42 are now in
condition for allowance. As such, Applicant respectfully requests
reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 21, 29, 32, and 42
as well as those claims that depend therefrom.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-18, 20, and
33-41.

Claims 28 and 31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected
base claims, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form
including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 28 and 31, and has included
the limitations of these claims in independent claims 21 and 29, respectively, as
discussed above.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney, Larry D. Baker, at (360) 212-0769.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 20th day of April, 2005.

Sarah L. Reinhard
Name

Sarah L. Reinhard
Signature

Respectfully Submitted,
Brooke E. Smith, et al.

By their Representatives,

BROOKS & CAMERON, PLLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 500
Minneapolis, MN 55403

By: Jeffery L. Cameron
Jeffery L. Cameron
Reg. No. 43,527

Date: 4/20/05